

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present case in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 63-66 have been added. Claims 13, 25, 39 and 51 have been amended. Claims 13, 14, 16-26 and 28-66 are currently pending. No new matter has been inserted. Support for new claims 63-66 can be found in the specification at page 7, lines 6-11, and page 9, lines 24-29. Support for the amendment of claims 13, 25, 39 and 51 can be found in the specification at page 7, lines 6-11, and page 9, lines 8-9 and 24-31.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 13-14, 16-24, 37 and 39-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Barron et al., US 6,030,575. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 13, 25, and 39 require that “the inorganic binder coats the thermal-resistant synthetic fibers.” Barron discloses a method wherein a binder, including no significant amounts of solvent, binds fibers by heating and softening the binder. See col. 3, lines 46-49. Applicants assert that Barron’s method, including no significant amounts of solvent, would not result in an inorganic binder coating the fibers because of poor wettability between the inorganic binder and the fibers. Accordingly, Barron does not disclose every element of claims 13, 25, or 39. As claims 14 and 16-24 are dependent on claim 13, they are also not anticipated. As claim 37 is dependent on claim 25, it is also not anticipated. Finally, as claims 40-50 are dependent on claim 39, they are also not anticipated. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 22, 25-26, 28-36, 38, 47 and 51-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Barron et al. and further in view of EP 0 807 703 to Sakai et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 13, 25, 39, and 51 require that “the inorganic binder coats the thermal-resistant synthetic fibers.” Barron discloses a method wherein a binder, including no significant amounts

of solvent, binds fibers by heating and softening the binder. As stated above, Applicants assert that Barron's method, including no significant amounts of solvent, would not result in an inorganic binder coating the fibers because of poor wettability between the inorganic binder and the fibers. Therefore, Barron does not disclose or suggest every element of claims 13, 25, 39, and 51. Sakai fails to cure the deficiencies of Barron. Sakai discloses a nonwoven fabric cloth substrate for printed wiring boards. However, Sakai does not disclose or suggest that "the inorganic binder coats the thermal-resistant synthetic fibers" as required by claims 13, 25, 39, and 51.

Therefore, the combination of Barron and Sakai fail to disclose or suggest the inventions of claims 13, 25, 39, or 51. As claims 22, 26, 28-36, 38, 47, and 52-62 are dependent thereon, they are also not disclosed or suggested. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

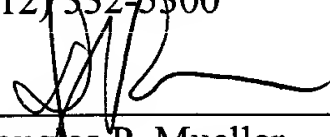
Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 13, 2004



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE